CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 11 - The Church in Bondage to the State (AD 885-1049)

1. *Europe in Disorder*
    a. *In 843 the Empire of Charlemagne was divided among his three grandsons; Charlemagne had created order out of chaos. But his successors did not succeed in protecting their people from new enemies who now appeared*
    b. *the Norsemen sailed up the rivers and made landings in the Netherlands and France and took special delight in plundering and burning churches and monasteries and also murdered many of the inhabitants*
    c. *Europe was again plunged into disorder. Out of the disorder of these times arose Feudalism.*
2. *Feudalism Develops*
    a. *Feudalism was a system based upon a peculiar way of holding land; the kings who succeeded Charlemagne discovered that they were not able to protect themselves against the invading barbarians, and as security measure these kings divided their kingdoms among their leading warriors, in return to give him military aid, on this same condition they also divided their estate among lesser nobles in turn granted sections of land to lesser tenants, and so on*
    b. *Those who received land upon the condition of military aid and service were called Vassals; the lands which were held upon these conditions were called fiefs; Pious people gave land to churches or monasteries such that Bishops, archbishops, and Abbots became landowners that brought them into the feudal system*
    c. *Emperors looked upon the popes as their vassals--a fact which foreshadowed serious trouble for the Church*
3. *The Normans*
    a. *Many Norsemen did not go back to their homes and made permanent settlements in northwestern France; they adopted the language, customs, and religion and later called Normans in Normandy*
    b. *William, duke of Normandy, invaded England in 1066, defeated the English in the battle of Hastings, and conquered their land; they also conquered southern Italy*
4. *Italian Feudal Lords Control the Popes*
    a. *Italian feudal lords were continually fighting for supremacy whomever gained control of Rome for a time dictated the appointment of the pope; often wicked men, unfit for office in the Church, were elected popes; between the death of Stephen VI in 891 and the accession of John XII in 955 there were no less than twenty popes - a time of shame, disgrace, and confusion for the Church*
5. *The Pope; Depend on German Emperors*
    a. *Pope John XII called to his aid Otto I, king of the Germans*
    b. *A practice came called **lay investiture** - when a layman--a man who had not the authority of the Church--gave someone these symbols and made him bishop, the act was called lay investiture (Investiture means giving to a man who was elected bishop a ring and a staff as symbols of his office)*
    c. *Otto rescued Pope John XII from the Normans and other influences and crowned him Emperor on February 2, 962, restoring the Empire in the West thus was henceforth connected with Germany until 1806 (when Napoleon made an end of it); until this time the popes had all been Italian but tradition was broken as Otto III placed his tutor, Gerbert, archbishop of Rheims, upon the papal throne in 999. He was the first French pope, and the most learned man of his time. Gregory V, who had preceded him, was the first German pope.*
6. *The Papal Office is Sold*
    a. *the Church was once more to be plunged into the depths of disgrace. The Italian noble Tuscan family happened to be in control at the time, made Benedict IX pope in 1035 - Benedict was only twelve years old at the time, turned out to be one of the worst to ever occupy the papal seat.*
    b. *the Crescenzio family, rivals of the Tuscan, were able to replace Benedict with Sylvester III in 1045*
    c. *Benedict came back and resumed the office, got tired and sold it for 1000 pounds of silver to a man who became Gregory VI, but did not give it up (when the scandal became public) thus there were now three popes – Sylvester III, Benedict IX, and Gregory VI*